

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RO, NI
SUBJECT: OBASANJO VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 3612 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING UP ON MARCH 1977 STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA BY
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU (CUT SHORT BY MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN
ROMANIA--77 LAGOS 2549), NIGERIAN DELEGATION LED BY
GENERAL OBASANJO VISITED ROMANIA FROM 5 TO 7 JUNE 1978.
JUDGING FROM MEDIA COVERAGE AND NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED,
VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OF ABOVE AVERAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

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2. APART FROM USUAL STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH
AFRICA, DISARMAMENT, EQUAL RIGHTS OF ALL STATES, IMPORTANCE
OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS, AND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO INTER-
NATIONAL PROBLEMS, THEME WHICH FIRST SURFACED HERE IN
ROMANIAN STATEMENTS MADE ON OCCASION OF ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY (REFTEL) REGARDING GOR

OPPOSITION TO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN AFRICA REAPPEARS IN STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH SIDES AND IS ALSO ALLUDED TO IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALTHOUGH THE CONDEMNATION COVERS ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS IN AFRICA PROBLEMS, THE IMPLICATION SEEMS TO BE POINTED AT THE SOVIETS/CUBANS RATHER THAN AT THE FRENCH/BELGIANS. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALSO EXPLICITLY CONDEMNS RHODESIA INTERNAL AGREEMENT "SIGNED BY IAN SMITH AND HIS PROTEGES" AND CALLS FOR "INTENSIFIED" NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE TO ASSURE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE.

3. THE "JOINT SOLEMN DECLARATION" INCLUDES TWO POINTS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED AT NIGERIAN INITIATIVE AS THEY DO NOT NORMALLY APPEAR IN ROMANIAN DOCUMENTS. FIRST IS RELATED TO LAW OF THE SEA AND READS IN PART "(BOTH COUNTRIES AGREE TO) THE RIGHT OF MARITIME STATES TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MARINE AND SUBMARINE RESOURCES WITHIN THEIR NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND TO THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES TO TAKE PART ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS IN THE EXPLORATION OF SUBMARINE TERRITORIES AND THEIR RESOURCES WHICH ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF NATIONAL JURISDICTIONS AND CONSTITUTE A COMMON HERITAGE OF MAN." THE SECOND POINT REFERS TO THE RIGHT OF EACH STATE TO ITS INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE DEFENSE ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 51 OF THE U.N. CHARTER.

4. ON THE BILATERAL SIDE, VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL CONTENT. NIGERIAN DELEGATION VISITED AN IMPORTANT PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX, A HEAVY MACHINERY ENTERPRISE, A WOOD PROCESSING PLANT AND A FURNITURE FACTORY. THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION ESTABLISHED DURING CEAUSESCU MARCH VISIT TO LAGOS HELD ITS FIRST SESSION AND AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" THAT NIGERIAN OIL WOULD BE EXCHANGED FOR ROMANIAN GOODS AND SERVICES. A "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES" WAS SIGNED, AS WELL AS A "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS" AND AN AIR AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE "BETWEEN AND BEYOND THEIR TERRITORIES". THE FOLLOWING FIELDS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WERE DISCUSSED: MINING, WOOD PROCESSING, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH. OBASANJO DELEGATION DEPARTED BUCHAREST FOR WARSAW.

5. COMMENT: IF, AS PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU STATED DURING A TOAST, TWO WAY TRADE HAS INCREASED FIVE FOLD SINCE HIS VISIT TO LAGOS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT VOLUME OF TRADE, SPURRED BY ROMANIA'S ENERGY NEEDS, WILL GROW AT AN

EVEN FASTER RATE DURING THE NEXT YEAR. NIGERIAN EMBOFFS
HERE PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED THAT THEY COULD NOT IMAGINE HOW
TRADE WITH ROMANIA COULD INCREASE SINCE THE QUALITY OF
ROMANIAN GOODS WAS LOW AND THAT NIGERIA OBTAINED EVERY-
THING IT NEEDED FROM ALREADY ESTABLISHED SOURCES IN THE
WEST. THIS MAY STILL BE SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM AS
NIGERIANS PONDER WHAT TO REQUEST IN RETURN FOR THEIR
OIL. FOR TIME BEING, THEY SEEM TO BE FOCUSING ON HEAVY
MACHINERY AND WOOD PRODUCTS IF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION'S
SHOPPING TOUR MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR IS ANY INDICA-
TION. WILL PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFO/COMMENTS ON THIS
TOPIC AFTER WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH NIGERIAN
AND OTHER COLLEAGUES.

AGGREY

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